

involved in the controversy. She goes out to western Nebraska, everywhere she goes the people talk to her, and everybody she talks to says we need Initiative 300 changed because it is hurting economic development in this part of the state. What is her answer? Well, I sure wish the Legislature would talk about it and do something about that. She passes the buck. She's not willing to face the controversy and won't be willing to face the controversy. We have our own Ag Committee in the Legislature. They are not willing to face the heat, they are not willing to face the controversy. You speak to many of those people privately and they'll say, yes, I know it needs to be changed but, boy, I just can't make my views known publicly because I'm going to get too much heat from a few people in my district. And it is a very vocal, very small minority who are providing heat on this issue. But they back off of it. They will not even pass a bill out of committee to let us even consider it. That is why this motion has to be before us today. And we talk about the people in the Legislature. When I go to talk to them individually, and I think if we took a private vote on this, a secret ballot on this issue probably could get 40 or better votes to change Initiative 300, but they don't want to face the heat. They do not want to listen to that vocal minority out there who is clamoring for no changes in Initiative 300. I think we have a good example in here that you can be against Initiative 300 and still win reelection, or still win an election. We have a couple of examples. Senator Rupp went out in his district, and probably the only issue in that campaign was Initiative 300, yet he won reelection, quite easily. We have Senator Frank Korshoj, took on a person who is right out of the Center for Rural Affairs, Kathleen Severens, able to defeat her very easily. They are definitely a vocal minority out there who support Initiative 300. And we have Senator Vard Johnson, the economic development guru of the Legislature. He is willing to possibly sell the entire state's economic future through tax exemptions just to keep one business in this state, ConAgra, he's willing to do that, but yet he's not willing to face up to an economic development issue for western Nebraska. He says we need big corporations in Nebraska, we need big corporations doing this, and that, and the other thing, but we don't need big corporations in here dealing with agricultural development, we don't want big corporations doing that because they are bad. Why isn't he out promoting family businesses? If he believes that strongly in family businesses, we should have a protection for the family grocery store, we should have a protection for everything as far as family goes, but we don't have. We only have that in place in agriculture. The time to do something